

REMARKS

This Response is filed in reply to the Office Action dated December 10, 2002, which is an Election/Restriction. The issues of the December 10, 2002 Office Action are presented below with reference to the Office Action.

With regard to the Office Action, paragraph 1: Examiner provides four (4) inventions as follows:

- Group I, claims 1-18, drawn to a method of association a product criterion;
- Group II, claims 19-26, drawn to a fuzzy logic method;
- Group III, claims 27-33, drawn to facilitating interactive selection of product in the network environment; and,
- Group IV, claims 34-37, drawn to rating product features.

Examiner further states that Group II has separate utility as compared to Group I.

In Response, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-18. It is respectfully submitted that examination of all claims simultaneously would place no undue burden on the Examiner, as examination of the claims of Groups II, III, and IV necessarily entail a search of the subject matter of Group I. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the examination of Groups I-IV together present no significant burden over the examination of Group I alone, as all groups include features that include membership grades.

As Examiner knows, for a restriction requirement to be valid, the Examiner must establish that the search and examination of the entire application cannot be made without serious burden (see MPEP §803). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests examination of all claims simultaneously.

Conclusion

Applicants consider the Response herein to be fully responsive to the referenced Office Action. Based on the above Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance is requested. If there are any remaining issues or the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would be

helpful in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 617-832-1241.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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